

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 210923

21 15

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 RSC-01 SS-20 /058 R

66613

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RSTECHSCHULTE-BEWT

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EUR/EE:ESEGALL

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R 252113Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BTRA, EAGR, CZ

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF DIRECTOR OF CZECH CENTER OF VETERINARY

SANITATION ESTABLISHMENTS

REF: USDOC 15402 AND PREVIOUS

1. VISIT BY CZECHS WAS APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL FROM THEIR
STANDPOINT AND DISCUSSIONS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE WITH ANDERSON-
IBEC AND ALLBRIGHT-NELL. HOWEVER CERTAIN PROBLEMS AROSE IN
ARRANGING VISIT THAT SHOULD BE NOTED TO PREVENT FUTURE RECURRENCE.

2. COMMERCE IS NOT EQUIPPED TO SUPPLY INTERPRETERS FOR FOREIGN
VISITORS. WE MANAGED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY TO FIND CZECH-SPEAKER
IN OMAHA WHO ACCOMPANIED GROUP ON ONE PLANT TOUR. IN
FUTURE PLEASE ADVISE SIMILAR GROUPS TO INCLUDE AN ENGLISH-
SPEAKING PERSON IN THEIR GROUP OR MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS,
POSSIBLY THROUGH CZECH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

3. THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO COORDINATION BETWEEN GROUP AND
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EITHER CZECH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON OR CZECH TRADE OFFICE IN

NEW YORK, BECAUSE THESE OFFICES HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM GOC AS TO THE GROUP'S PLANS, THOSE OFFICES REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH US IN ANY WAY. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT CZECH EMBASSY BE INFORMED OF ALL FUTURE VISITS AND TAKE ACTIVE PLANNING ROLE IF FEASIBLE.

4. AFTER SPENDING ONLY ONE DAY IN OMAHA, GROUP UNEXPECTEDLY VISITED SAN FRANCISCO DESPITE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAD ARRANGED MEETINGS WITH TWO OTHER COMPANIES IN OMAHA. COMPANIES HAD GONE TO EXPENSE AND TROUBLE IN PREPARING FOR MEETINGS AND PLANT TOURS AND WERE THEREFORE UPSET AT CZECHS' DISAPPEARANCE. AFTER SPENDING TWO DAYS IN SAN FRANCISCO, (ONE SIGHTSEEING) GROUP ARRIVED WASHINGTON ONE DAY LATE, ABORTING TWO OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN VIRGINIA. DR. JASEK SAID GROUP WAS SATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY HAD ALREADY SEEN BUT OFFERED NO EXPLANATION OR APOLOGIES FOR THE CHANGED PLANS AND CONSEQUENT SCHEDULE FOUL-UP. DR. JASEK WAS VERY GRACIOUS AND EFFUSIVE IN EXPRESSING THANKS FOR OUR EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF.

5. THE DIVERSION TO SAN FRANCISCO WAS APPARENTLY TO VISIT DOW CHEMICAL OFFICES. THE CZECHS HAD CONTACTED DOW'S VIENNA OFFICE WHICH RECOMMENDED THE VISIT. HOWEVER, DOW HOME OFFICE ADVISED VIENNA THEY DID NOT WELCOME THE VISIT. POSSIBLY MESSAGE DIDN'T REACH THE CZECHS WHO NONETHELESS DROPPED INTO DOW'S SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES. THE GROUP RECEIVED CORDIAL WELCOME, BUT DOW WAS NOT PLEASED WITH HANDLING OF MATTER.

6. AS COORDINATOR FOR VISIT, BEWT HAS HAD TO ACCEPT SOME RESPONSIBILITY AND BLAME FOR FOUL-UPS. IF THIS KIND OF EXPERIENCE IS REPEATED BEWT, COMMERCE AND AMEMBASSIES WILL BEGIN TO LOSE CREDIBILITY IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND AMERICAN COMPANIES MAY BE RELUCTANT TO RECEIVE SIMILAR DELEGATIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY DISCRETELY SUGGESTING TO FUTURE CZECH VISITORS THAT WE WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, BUT FOR VISIT TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE DELEGATES SHOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A BUSINESSLIKE MANNER IN DEALINGS WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES. IF SCHEDULES MUST BE CHANGED, COMMERCE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED SO THAT WE CAN INFORM COMPANIES. IN THIS CASE WE HAD TO TRACE CZECHS TO SAN FRANCISCO TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS AFTER THEY MISSED SCHEDULED MEETING IN OMAHA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE210923
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JOANNE B. KAY/DSTERN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731011/aaaaahzr.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USDOC 15402 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <17-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF DIRECTOR OF CZECH CENTER OF VETERINARY SANITATION ESTABLISHMENTS
TAGS: BTRA, EAGR, CZ
To: PRAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005